

What is claimed is:

1. A method for de-authenticating from a first web server security realm protected by an authentication scheme lacking a de-authentication operation, the method comprising:
  - attempting to access a first resource in a first security realm protected by the authentication scheme;
  - receiving a request for authentication credentials in response to said attempting to access the first resource;
  - supplying said authentication credentials in response to the request so as to become authenticated in the first security realm; and
  - accessing a logout resource in the first security realm, said logout resource configured to automatically authenticate with a second security realm on accessing thereof.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - providing a common access point executing a web browser;
  - first displaying a login web page of the second security realm so that a first user may authenticate with the first security realm and access the first resource, the login page comprising a login resource configured to perform said attempting to access the first resource; and
  - second displaying the login web page of the second security realm responsive to said accessing the logout resource so that a second user may authenticate with the first security realm and access the first resource.

1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the logout resource executes a script  
2 configured to authenticate a user with the second security realm.

1           4.     The method of claim 3, wherein the logout resource comprises a web  
2 page element comprising a link to the script, and wherein the web page element  
3 incorporates authentication credentials for the second security realm so that the user  
4 need not provide authentication credentials to access the second security realm.

1           5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the authentication scheme comprises  
2 HTTP basic authentication.

3           6.     A method for de-authenticating from an HTTP basic authentication,  
4 comprising:  
5           attempting to access a first resource in a first security realm protected by HTTP  
6 basic authentication;  
7           responsive to said attempting to access, receiving an authentication request for  
8 controlling access to the first resource;  
9           supplying authentication credentials responsive to said authentication request so  
10 as to authenticate with the first security realm;  
11           accessing a second resource in the first security realm; and  
            responsive to said accessing the second resource, automatically authenticating  
            with a second security realm.

1           7.     The method of claim 6, wherein said authenticating with the second  
2 security realm invalidates a prior authentication with the first security realm.

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1           8.     The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2           displaying a login element within a web browser, the login element configured to  
3 access the first resource upon activation thereof.

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1           9.     The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
2           displaying a logout element within the web browser for performing said  
3 automatically authenticating with the second security realm; and  
4           within a single browser session:

5                   authenticating a first user with the first security realm;

6                   authenticating the first user with the second security realm so as to de-  
7 authenticate the first user from the first security realm; and

8                   authenticating a second user with the first security realm.

1           10.    An article of manufacture for de-authenticating from a first web server  
2 security realm protected by an authentication scheme lacking a de-authentication  
3 operation, comprising a readable medium having instructions encoded thereon for  
4 execution by a processor, said instructions capable of directing the processor to  
5 perform:

6                   attempting to access a first resource in a first security realm protected by the  
7 authentication scheme;

8 receiving a request for authentication credentials in response to said attempting  
9 to access the first resource;  
10 supplying said authentication credentials in response to the request so as to  
11 become authenticated in the first security realm; and  
12 accessing a logout resource in the first security realm, said logout resource  
13 configured to automatically authenticate with a second security realm on accessing  
14 thereof.

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1 11. The article of manufacture of claim 10, said instructions comprising further  
2 instructions capable of directing the processor to perform:  
3 providing a common access point executing a web browser;  
4 first displaying a login web page of the second security realm so that a first user  
5 may authenticate with the first security realm and access the first resource, the login  
6 page comprising a login resource configured to perform said attempting to access the  
7 first resource; and  
8 second displaying the login web page of the second security realm responsive to  
9 said accessing the logout resource so that a second user may authenticate with the first  
10 security realm and access the first resource.

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1 12. The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein said instructions for said  
2 logout resource comprise instructions capable of directing the processor to execute a  
3 script configured to authenticate a user with the second security realm.

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5 13. The article of manufacture of claim 12, further comprising:

6           said instructions for said logout resource further comprising instructions capable  
7 of directing the processor to provide a web page element comprising a link to the script;  
8 and  
9           said instructions for said web page element further comprising instructions  
10 capable of directing the processor to provide authentication credentials for the second  
11 security realm so that the user need not provide authentication credentials to access the  
12 second security realm.

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1           14.    The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the authentication scheme  
2 comprises HTTP basic authentication.

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responsive to said accessing the second resource, automatically authenticating with a second security realm.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein said instructions for authenticating with the second security realm invalidates a prior authentication with the first security realm.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 16, said instructions comprising further instructions capable of directing the processor to perform:

displaying a login element within a web browser, the login element configured to access the first resource upon activation thereof.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 17, said instructions comprising further instructions capable of directing the processor to perform:

displaying a logout element within the web browser for performing said automatically authenticating with the second security realm; and

within a single browser session:

authenticating a first user with the first security realm;

authenticating the first user with the second security realm so as to de-authenticate the first user from the first security realm; and

authenticating a second user with the first security realm.

1           19.    An apparatus for de-authenticating from a first web server security realm  
2   protected by an authentication scheme lacking a de-authentication operation,  
3   comprising:  
4           means for attempting to access a first resource in a first security realm protected  
5   by the authentication scheme;  
6           means for receiving a request for authentication credentials in response to said  
7   attempting to access the first resource;  
8           means for supplying said authentication credentials in response to the request so  
9   as to become authenticated in the first security realm; and  
10          means for accessing a logout resource in the first security realm, said logout  
11   resource configured to automatically authenticate with a second security realm on  
12   accessing thereof.

13           20.    The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:  
14           means for providing a common access point executing a web browser;  
15           means for first displaying a login web page of the second security realm so that a  
16   first user may authenticate with the first security realm and access the first resource, the  
17   login page comprising a login resource configured to perform said attempting to access  
18   the first resource; and  
19           means for second displaying the login web page of the second security realm  
20   responsive to said accessing the logout resource so that a second user may  
21   authenticate with the first security realm and access the first resource.

1           21.    An apparatus for de-authenticating from an HTTP basic authentication  
2 comprising:  
3           means for attempting to access a first resource in a first security realm protected  
4 by HTTP basic authentication;  
5           responsive to said attempting to access, means for receiving an authentication  
6 request for controlling access to the first resource;  
7           means for supplying authentication credentials responsive to said authentication  
8 request so as to authenticate with the first security realm;  
9           means for accessing a second resource in the first security realm; and  
10          responsive to said accessing the second resource, means for automatically  
11 authenticating with a second security realm.

12           22.    The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:  
13           means for displaying a logout element within the web browser for performing said  
14 automatically authenticating with the second security realm; and  
15           within a single browser session:  
16           means for authenticating a first user with the first security realm;  
17           means for authenticating the first user with the second security realm so  
18 as to de-authenticate the first user from the first security realm; and  
19           means for authenticating a second user with the first security realm.